

Minutes of Past Presidents/Delta Award Winners  
April 2023  
Thursday lunch meeting.

Members Present:

Delta Award Winners:

Elizabeth  
Kevin  
Larry  
Sid

Past Presidents:

Helen Lojak  
Kevin  
Sid  
Carrie  
Sarah  
Gloria  
Glen  
Diane

Special Guest: Matt

Made introductions and welcome remarks. This was a chance to connect with and reconnect with as many past leaders as possible. The working luncheon gave us a chance to celebrate the individuals who helped to carry the Society for the past 30+ years.

Before our “break” from conventions, we had planned a yearly meeting of the PP group, but Shannin and several others of us discussed expanding the group to include the Delta Award winners, too. This gives us a larger group whose company we can enjoy! It was a successful undertaking.

One of the things we discussed was creating new Awards/Scholarships for students. Larry & I self-funded one based on necessity, but Sid, Carrie and I worked to create a Beth DeMeo Award (critical papers in poetry) to honor her dedication to the organization. We asked Deltans and PPs to consider funding or finding ways to fund awards in their special feeds, named awards, etc. Following the model used for the DeMeo Award, I explained that we could give several awards for poetry, simply by designating specific kinds of poetry/genre/subject, etc. I also explained that we need to create new awards for scholarship in minority studies, women & film, ethnic literature/film, or ANY chosen topic or area of interest.

I explained that we would like to expand the field and increase the number of awards. We are hoping committee members might direct/guide us to the proper people to tap from their former/current university/college to see if they would like to sponsor an award to celebrate Deltan/PP achievements, accomplishments, and areas of interest.

I also asked the committee to consider if they know of any private businesses/donors who might wish to honor them and their professional interests.

We moved on to discuss how we are currently planning next year's Centennial Celebration of our group. I inquired as to how they may wish to serve the organization, even beyond retirement from their employer.

Committee members were asked if there are particular tasks they would LIKE to do, in order to remain active, or to serve the Society.

There was a call for any additional items of business.

We agreed that that this group must continue to meet for lunch at every convention, to produce good ideas for Sigma Tau Delta to pursue, or simply to celebrate fellowship and good memories together. Of all the things that this group Could Do, fellowship is perhaps the most important.

Committee members were invited to the receptions for the authors on Thursday and Friday evening.

Meeting adjourned. The torch was passed back to Diane to follow up on the suggestions and recommendations for Spring 2024's meeting in St. Louis.